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# THE SPECTRUM

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## STRAKE

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about stirring up radioactive dust and we don't want to go where we went before with all this fallout."

While the St. George City Council has a work meeting scheduled for Thursday night, nothing is on the agenda for the following week concerning making a council-wide comment about Divine Strake.

Yet Mayor Dan McArthur said he is talking to his council about the proposed test and it could be put on the agenda for the regular meeting on Jan. 18.

McArthur said all of the council members are very concerned. He said they have made personal contacts with representatives and have spoken up in the past about the proposed test.

"Many of us lived through the testing, which caused a lot of grief and we have been very vocal about it," McArthur said. "Personally, I am concerned. We were not told the truth the first time in the 50s."

Having grown up in the area, McArthur said he remembers being in school underneath a desk as clouds from the Nevada Test Site drifted overhead. He also saw the aftermath as many of his classmates developed thyroid problems.

### PAST SPRINGDALE RESOLUTIONS

■ **April 2001** — The Springdale Town Council passed a resolution recognizing the town's dependence on the long-term protection of natural features in Zion National Park. Natural quiet and solitude are two important resources of Zion National Park and the neighboring communities.

■ **Feb. 2003** — The Springdale Town Council unanimously passed a resolution on War With Iraq to "give peace a chance." The resolution was authored by council member Louise Excell.

■ **May 2004** — The Springdale Town Council unanimously passed a resolution to support Rep. Jim Matheson's, D-Utah, bill HR3921, Safety for Americans from Nuclear Weapons Testing act.

■ **July 2006** — At a special meeting the Springdale Town Council voted for a resolution opposing the Bennett-Matheson Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2006.

In an interview last week, Kevin Rohrer, spokesman with National Nuclear Security Administration — Nevada Site Office said that although the meeting is not a public hearing,

public comment concerning the revised environmental assessment released in December is being accepted.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency had scheduled the test for last June, but postponed it following questions from Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, and others over health and safety concerns.

Because of the lack of public hearings, and in response to overwhelming requests to allow the public to speak on the Divine Strake proposal, Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. requested the Utah Department of Environmental Quality host public hearings.

The hearings are scheduled for Jan. 18 in St. George and Jan. 24 in Salt Lake City. In addition, the public comment period on the environmental assessment for the Divine Strake proposal has been extended from Jan. 24 to Feb. 7.

Cluff said she doesn't believe weapons such as Divine Strake are necessary and that testing would lead to the use of such weapons.

As for the council possibly taking a stand on the issue, Cluff said of all the towns in Washington County to make a public stand, Springdale usually will, even if no other community decided to join them.

"We will speak up if we think things aren't right," Cluff said.

### THE MEETINGS

■ **Today:** Springdale Town Council, 5 p.m. at the Town Hall, 118 Lion Boulevard.

■ **Thursday:** DTRA and NNSA/NSO public information sessions, 6:30-9 p.m., Dixie Center.

■ **Jan. 18:** State of Utah public hearing, 5-8 p.m., Dunford Auditorium, Browning Building, Dixie State College.

■ The NNSA/NSO will accept comments on the revised Environmental Assessment by mail, NNSA/NSO, Divine Strake EA Comments, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518; by e-mail, [divinestrike@nv.doe.gov](mailto:divinestrike@nv.doe.gov); and fax, (702) 295-0625. Comments must be received by Feb. 7.

## Discussing Divine Strake

By **PATRICE ST. GERMAIN**

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**SPRINGDALE** — It's not like the Springdale Town Council has never made a political statement before.

Generally, the representatives of this small community are the first to speak their mind on issues, even if their opinion is sometimes unpopular.

Once again, the Springdale Town Council may end up deciding to give someone a piece of their collective mind, this time to the Department of Energy concerning the Divine Strake weapons test. The test is the detonation of a 700-ton fuel oil and ammonium nitrate bomb.

The bomb, which is not nuclear, is proposed to be detonated only a mile away from where nuclear testing was conducted at the Nevada Test Site. Those opposed to the test say it could raise radioactive dust particles that

### STORYCHAT

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could not be contained at the test site.

Tonight the council wants to make a comment about the test, only a day before an open house is scheduled in St. George sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration — Nevada Site Office and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Mayor Pat Cluff asked for the item to be placed on the agenda.

"I think it carries a little more weight," Cluff said of a comment coming from the council rather than from individual council members. "I want to hear what the rest of my council says and see where they are with this. Many people are concerned



Heavy equipment is used to remove debris from the front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City April 21, 1995, site of a car bombing that left at least 60 dead.

### How much more blast?

Oklahoma City  
2.5 tons

28  
times more

Divine Strake  
700 tons

The explosive used at the federal building in 1995 was ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, the same substance the Divine Strake test will use.

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